

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 24 of 1905.

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 17th June 1905.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

REFERRING to the Anti-Indian Trade Law recently passed by the Government of the Cape Colony, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 10th June says that anybody can come over to India to carry on his trade and can enrich himself at the cost of the Indians without any hinderance, but the poor Indians meet with obstacles, legal or illegal, in their every undertaking. Should the Government of India keep silent over the matter? If Lord Curzon protests against this law, it will certainly be repealed.

2. The same paper says that the 7th of February 1904 must be a very memorable day in the history of modern warfare. On that day the sun of good fortune of one country began to rise in the East, while the brilliant stars of the other country began to go down the zenith of its power. There was something more—the rapid progress of the European Powers in the East met a check for the first time on that day.

3. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 11th June has a leader on the success of Japan, in course of which the paper observes that however profuse be the expressions of praise of the Japanese by the Europeans, they are prompted more by fear than by any genuine feelings of admiration.

4. The *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 12th June says that the European Powers do not like to see any further success of Japan over Russia. If, before the outbreak of war, all of them had walked on the same line of policy, there would have been no war at all. However, it is evident that the Powers will compel Japan to accept peace on moderate terms.

5. In reference to the statement published in the *Westminster Gazette* to the effect that the capitalists of London are going to move the Persian Government through the British Ambassador at Teheran to grant them a concession for constructing water-works at Teheran, and also for improving the agriculture of certain tracts near it by artificial means, the same paper says that although we are not aware of the truth or otherwise of the above statement, yet we hope that the present Ministry of Persia will never grant any concession to foreigners which is not likely to benefit the Persians.

6. The same paper says that the Port Officer of Persia has gone to Bushire to supervise the working of the new port rules, as the Persian mercantile bodies have submitted a representation to their Government regarding the operation of those rules, which have brought the local traffic to a standstill since the beginning of the last month.

7. The same paper says that the Chamber of Commerce of Calcutta has recently adopted a new weight for the use of tea merchants, which is a little less than the current weight. The Persian tea merchants also ought to adopt the same weight.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

8. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 6th June writes that fear of thefts and dacoities has made it absolutely impossible to live in Tangail and places in its neighbourhood. Dacoities are seriously rife in the Gopalpur thana in the northern part

BHARAT MITRA,
June 10th, 1905

BHARAT MITRA.

HITAVARTA,
June 11th, 1905.

ROZNAME-I-MUKAD-
DAS HABLUL MATEEN,
June 11th, 1905.

ROZNAME-I-MUKAD-
DAS HABLUL MATEEN.

CHARU MIHIR,
June 6th, 1905.

of Tangail. And thefts are still more seriously common at Tangail and its vicinity. The life and property of the citizens have become unsafe. The police do not seem able to do anything. It is said that in the course of one year, no less than three thefts were committed in the same house, which belongs to a retired Deputy Collector resident in a respectable village near Tangail. What is wanted is a systematic use of section 110, Criminal Procedure Code, against every *budmash* in every village as well as against those uneducated people who, though outwardly respectable, secretly assist these *budmashes*. There are many people in these parts who are believed by the public to be regular receivers of stolen property, and who, though fattening on such illegal gains, still manage to keep up a highly respectable position in society.

CHARU MIBIR.

9. The same paper reports that crime has seriously increased in the villages of Chalra, Dulla, Balbari, Chapuria, Bejbari, etc., in the sadar subdivision of Mymensingh. Ruffians go about insulting gentlemen in public places, and forcibly dispossessing them of any valuables they may carry. Thefts are occurring daily in some places. These, however, are comparatively slight offences compared with another which is equally frequent, viz., outrages on female modesty. Nobody's honour or property is safe at the hands of these shameless ruffians, and it has become difficult for women to preserve their honour. The manner in which these men harass women in public has seriously alarmed inhabitants of all classes. These ruffians are going on unchecked in their career of crime, and the public are deterred from bringing cases in which their womenkind are concerned, partly by a feeling of shame and partly also by a fear of further outrages as a consequence of their daring to do so. Such lawlessness as now prevails in these villages is not creditable to British rule and only indicates incompetence. It is further said that four or five murders have taken place in the neighbourhood of these villages in the course of one year. The District Superintendent of Police is requested in the present case to adopt the same severe measures as those which under Mr. Thomas succeeded in putting down some years ago similar outrages on females at Sambhuganj and its neighbourhood.

MANBHUM,
June 5th, 1905.

10. The *Manbhum* [Purulia] of the 6th June says that at the *gharry-khana* (carriage-stand) which is situated to the

A complaint.

east of the Purulia station, illiterate people are often harassed and blackmailed by a number of *gundas* who act in collusion with the inferior members of the local police force.

11. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 8th June writes:—

BANKURA DARPAR,
June 8th, 1905.

Allegations against town chaukidars at Bankura.

We request our benevolent Magistrate, Kumar Ramendra Krishna Deb, to stop these oppressions of the town chaukidars. The public are not able

to bring a charge against the police easily. Specially mufassal carters are not willing to stay at town for a moment more than is absolutely necessary. Their first wish is to discharge their load in the town and then to depart from it as quickly as possible. Can they afford to take lodgings in town and procure the necessary food for themselves and their cattle, which are all necessary to be done if they are to conduct cases against the police?

There are numerous Sub-Inspectors of Police in the town. If the District Magistrate tells them to be on the lookout for this particular form of police oppression, the evil would surely cease, and illiterate and starving village people would no longer suffer harassments in coming to town.

Let the officers of the police and the executive appoint a contractor for supplying carts. Seizing of carts by the town chaukidars is a highly objectionable practice.

Besides this particular form of oppression, we have heard of many other forms of oppression by the chaukidars. We have received certain serious charges made against the chaukidars of Rajgram. With the intention of levying blackmail they threaten females with arrest under Act V. They also regularly receive bribes where gambling is being carried on. Whether

these charges are true or not, we shall inquire later on, and the result of our inquiry will be published in due course in our paper.

12. The *Birbhumi Varta* [Birbhumi] of the 10th June complains that the *kanchi* liquor-shops situated prominently on the public roads in Suri town are a serious nuisance to the respectable part of its population. A new *toddykhana* has recently been opened on the east of the bazar, to the west of which already existed a *kanchi* liquor-shop. At night crowds of low-class people indulge in *ganja*-smoking on the *chowrasta* (crossing) in the neighbourhood of these two shops, and offend public decency in such a way as to make it often difficult for respectable people to pass by the spot.

BIRBHUM VARTA,
June 10th, 1905.

13. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 10th June complains that the public of the Bagnan Union are not at all satisfied with their panchayet, Aghor Chandra Nandi. One Hira Lal Sarkar, an employé of the grocer's shop which he keeps up, is the right-hand man of the panchayet and practically does all the business of his office, except putting the signatures. The panchayet is further alleged to be an outsider, and an appeal is made to the members of the union and to the Subdivisional Officer of Uluberia to keep a strict eye on his doings.

HOWRAH HITAISHI,
June 10th, 1905.

The panchayet of the Bagnan Union in Howrah.

14. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 11th June writes:—

DAILY HITAVADI,
June 11th, 1905.

A short while ago, Government invited applications for 24 new posts as Inspectors of Police. In response about 300 applications from educated and respectable Indians were received. It is now notified that only four out of these 24 posts are to be treated as open to Bengalis. For Lord Curzon has decided that 84 per cent. of the Inspectorships of Police are to be filled by foreigners. We cannot therefore hold Sir A. Fraser seriously guilty for giving away 20 out of the 24 vacancies at his disposal to Europeans and Eurasians. But His Honour should have made this fact plain at the outset and thereby spared many people the disappointment of a fruitless application. And as for Lord Curzon, what shall we say to his Excellency? It is his idea that he is seeking our welfare single-mindedly. We can only with joined hands request him to give up the idea of doing us good in the present case. During the few days he is to continue in this country, we shall consider it the greatest boon if His Excellency remains inactive and lets us alone.

DAILY HITAVADI.

15. A correspondent of the same paper complains that for a number of years past, petty thefts and crime of other more serious descriptions have become alarmingly frequent at Piljang and its neighbouring villages of Karakhali, Paikpara, Nayapara, Uttarpara, etc., in the Bagerhat subdivision of Khulna. On the night of the 11th *Jaistha* last, the house of a local doctor named Rajendra Kumar Chakrabarti was burned down by a gang of *budmashes*. Rajendra had incurred the enmity of a number of thieves, who some time before had attempted to rob the house of his uncle, Ramdas Chakrabarti, by attempting to bring them within the clutches of the law. His life had since then been once attempted, and this attack on his house is suspected to be another move in the same spirit. Rajendra carried the news of his mishap in person to the thana. But the beat chaukidar did not inform the thana people of the matter during the whole course of that week.

There are a number of ill-disposed persons of the village who are thwarting the efforts of the Daroga, Sarat Babu, to suppress the thieves and dacoits. Two hundred notorious *budmashes* of a neighbouring village were convicted by the local Deputy Magistrate, but interested parties made a strong and organised attempt to get them off the clutches of the law. A recurrence of crime is expected with the advent of the rainy season. Many *bedias* of village Ranjitpur act as habitual trainers of thieves. A special detective should be appointed to look into the cases here, otherwise a repetition of the anarchy of Mymensingh might be expected here. The local chaukidars should be transferred elsewhere.

NIHAR,
June 13th, 1905.

16. A correspondent of the *Nihar* [Contai] of the 13th June reports that the number of thefts and *budmashes* is greatly increasing in certain places under the jurisdiction

of the Ramnagar thana. Cucumbers, water-melons, mangoes, etc., are being stolen almost every day from houses. Cases of house-breaking and incendiaryism also are very frequent. The chaukidars are incompetent.

(b)—*Working of the Courts.*

SANJIVANI,
June 8th, 1905.

17. Referring to the Rolt case, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 8th June writes as follows:—

Government and the Holt case.

It is no doubt just and proper that innocent people unjustly harassed by officials should receive such treatment from the higher authorities as has been meted out to Mr. Rolt. But is this principle followed everywhere? In Bengal numbers of poor people are daily harassed and persecuted in law-courts, but does the High Court rebuke the officials who are guilty of committing such oppression, or does the Government grant any relief or remedy for it? Leaving the case of poor people aside, Rajas and zamindars, who are rich enough to keep a man like Mr. Rolt in their service, are also similarly oppressed. Magistrates have them often arrested under warrants and compel them to stand in the prisoner's dock in the law-court. But are these Magistrates rebuked for all this by either the High Court or the Government? Although Mr. Rolt is himself an insignificant man, he is said to be a nephew of the celebrated Mr. Rolt, K.C. It is rumoured that that gentleman wrote to two high officials in this country about the case in which his nephew was implicated. This is why Government took so much interest in the case. We do not know how far this rumour is true. But it is a fact that the Rolt case created an agitation the like of which was not known before. It is, however, hoped that the principle which Government has advised Magistrates to follow will be henceforward observed in the cases of Indians also, both rich and poor.

HITAVADI,
June 9th, 1905.

18. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th June writes as follows with reference to Mr. Rolt's case:—

The Rolt case.

The Managerships of the wards' estates have been practically reserved by Government for Europeans. It is needless to insist on the serious nature of the default of those who, entrusted with the custody and preservation of the property of minor landholders, fail to take sufficient care of such property. Unfortunately, Mr. Rolt's work shows serious neglect of his duties. Notwithstanding his being the custodian of the estate of a minor zamindar, he did not shrink from buying an estate worth Rs. 8,000 at Rs. 15,000. He was personally present at the auction and made the bids. And he ignored the fact that the agent of the person whose estate was being sold fraudulently made a number of bids in order to enhance the selling price of the property. A fault of omission like this is certainly no light one in a Manager of an estate. Nor was such fault noticeable in the case of this property alone. In regard to another property also he was similarly about to buy it at an excessive price, but he did not succeed in this latter case. Such being the facts, where is the man who can help suspecting that Mr. Rolt's private interests were connected with these purchases of property at a fancy price? There is, therefore, nothing surprising that the local Government officials, acting under suspicion, collected all the evidence they could and then prosecuted him.

That the evidence as to whether Mr. Rolt accepted bribes was considered unsatisfactory at the trial; that the manner in which the evidence against him was collected was objectionable,—all this may be true or not, and we have nothing to say on those points. But it is undeniable that Mr. Rolt betrayed inattention and neglect in the discharge of his duties and, further, that by his act the estate of the minor Nawabs has been made to lose large sums of money. These are facts which the trying Judge could not deny, and which even Mr. Rolt himself could not satisfactorily explain away. And Sir Andrew Fraser has expressed the opinion that the matter is suspicious. Who then can explain to us why a pecuniary compensation is allowed to Mr. Rolt, and why he is to get full pay for the period he was under suspension? Mr. Rolt,

either through incompetence or some other cause, has been instrumental in making the Khagra Estate lose a certain sum of money. Is that the very reason why Government is making that estate pay out a larger sum of money still in Mr. Rolt's relief?

Government is the custodian of the property of minor landholders. Is it not therefore morally bound to see that not a pice of their property is unnecessarily spent? What canon of justice can then justify the Government in bending its knees to the agitation of the Anglo-Indian community and unhesitatingly agreeing to spend the money of the Khagra Estate for the benefit of Mr. Rolt? That Mr. Rolt was unjustly prosecuted and harrassed is a fault that is being made much of both by the Anglo-Indian Press and by Mr. Justice Henderson. But nobody seems to spare a thought as to whose fault it is which was responsible for the waste of the estate's money, and who is primarily responsible for this loss. Supposing a native Manager had been concerned in this case instead of Mr. Rolt, would our Anglo-Indian contemporaries have been so ready as now to make light of the offence, or would Government have been so ready to offer damages?

The fact is that, thanks to the influence of colour, even the impossible often becomes possible in this unfortunate country. We have learnt by practical experience that colour is as often responsible for hiding many defects as it is for hiding many virtues. This Rolt case is simply a fresh experience in that direction. We cannot say that any gross injustice or oppression has been committed on Mr. Rolt and that the officials who supported his prosecution deserve serious punishment. We consider the censures which have been already awarded to some of these officials sufficient punishment for the slight lapses of which they were guilty. This is a matter on which we cannot agree with our Anglo-Indian contemporaries in opinion. But we have every sympathy with that part of their agitation which calls for a separation of the judicial from the executive function, and advocates complete independence for the judiciary. We beg, however, to remind our contemporaries at the same time that the Rolt case is not, really speaking, favourable to the agitation for securing the above-mentioned reform.

19. The *Rangpur Vartavaha* [Rangpur] of the 9th June suggests the desirability of some special facilities being offered

A suggestion.

to the public in connexion with the Courts of

RANGPUR
VARTAVAH,
June 9th, 1905.

justice for the reception of complaints in regard to their working, on the lines already existing in connexion with the Post office. It is suggested that there should be a box put up in each court-house for the reception of all such complaints. This box should be opened only by a trustworthy messenger from the post office and then transmitted to the proper authorities, who will make the necessary inquiries and take the necessary action. It is further suggested that such arrangements are necessary not only in connexion with the Courts, but with the working of the police as well.

20. Referring to the defamation case brought by Mr. MacBlaine, the District and Sessions Judge of Krishnagar, against

The Krishnagar defamatory case.

the *Krishnagar* paper, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta]

of the 10th June observes that Mr. MacBlaine has

BHARAT MITRA,
June 10th, 1905.

obtained the permission of the Government in respect of both a civil suit as well as a criminal case against the paper. Indeed, the Judge has by this case against the paper given it a notoriety which it did not enjoy before. This is the first case of its kind having been brought by a member of the Civil Service against a native of this country.

(d)—Education.

21. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 29th May complains of the action of the authorities of the Education Department

FARIDPUR HITAI-
SHINI,
May 29th, 1905.

A teacher of the Faridpur Zilla School.

ment in appointing a raw young B.A. of only one year's standing on Rs. 60 per month to fill the

vacancy caused in the teaching staff of the Faridpur Zilla School by the transfer, in January last, of Babu Hara Kanta Bose, B.A., an experienced and most competent master of about 12 years' experience on Rs. 100 a month. It is further alleged that as this new teacher has not yet joined his appointment his

work is being carried on by a temporary hand—to the great detriment of the work of the classes, which have just begun a new session since the 1st February last.

SANJIVANI,
June 8th, 1905.

The question of a site for the Narayanganj Entrance School, Dacca.

22. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 8th June regrets that Mr. Rankin, the District Magistrate of Dacca, has opposed the proposed removal of the Narayanganj Entrance School to the new site which was some time ago acquired with the help of the

Government for the purpose. The school is at present situated in a quarter of ill-fame, and Inspectors of Schools, while inspecting it, have invariably insisted on the necessity of changing this most objectionable site at as early a date as possible. On 19th November 1903, Babu Kumud Bandhu Basu, late Inspector of Schools, concluded his remarks on the subject in the inspection book of the school by saying, "I think no time should be lost in removing the school." He also remarked that "the proposed site is excellent, centrally situated, open and spacious." On January 27th 1904, Mr. Bamford, the present Inspector of Schools, Dacca Division, recorded the following remarks about the situation of the School:—"Very objectionable on account of the surroundings. Steps should be taken without delay to remove it into another building, new or otherwise, in a better locality." About two years ago, the Director of Public Instruction issued a circular, in which he said that schools situated in bad localities should be removed to better ones. In spite of all this, Mr. Rankin persists in his *zid* and has sent a long note to the Divisional Commissioner in support of the groundless objection that the new site is unsuited to the purposes of the school. As regards the bad surroundings of the present site of the school he remarks, "Lads are not likely to practise vice under the eyes of the school authorities." A strange remark, indeed, against which it is needless to argue. It is hoped the Divisional Commissioner will save the school from this whim of Mr. Rankin. The present site of the school has another drawback in that it is situated at one end of the town, so that most of the students have to walk long distances in order to attend it. This remoteness also prevents the local authorities and educated people from taking much interest in the affairs of the school.

SANJIVANI.

The proposed division of language in Bengal.

23. The same paper hears from Darjeeling that the proposal to divide the Bengali language will not be carried out and thanks the Government for it. In independent countries, says the writer, it is the custom to

thank a Government when it does a service to the people it governs, but in India people rejoice when their Government desists from doing a disservice to them.

BHARAT MITRA,
June 10th, 1905.

The question of text-books for rural primary schools in Bengal.

24. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* has learnt, says the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 10th June, that the Government has given up the idea of having books for rural primary schools prepared in dialects. If this news be correct, it must be due to the protests of the Bengalis. This has saved the language of the Biharis also from being divided.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI
June 13th, 1905.

Text-books for rural schools.

25. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 13th June has the following:—
With great joy and with every expression of gratitude we desire to announce to-day that Sir A. Fraser, after listening to our appeals to his pity, has abandoned his intention of splitting up the Bengali language and thereby given evidence of his pity and generosity. For this benevolent act of His Honour's we desire to convey to him our respectful gratitude.

RATNAKAR,
June 10th, 1905.

The Ranchi College scheme.

26. The *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 10th June writes:—
The Ranchi College is likely to prove a lasting memorial of Sir A. Fraser's. Seeing that Lord Curzon desires to leave monuments of his administration behind him in the Victoria Memorial in Calcutta and the Darbar Memorial Garden at Delhi, there is nothing strange that, following His Excellency's example, the Lieutenant-Governor should try to found a pet institution of his at Ranchi. When it is considered that not a pice of the lavish outlay necessary for this college is to be

paid out of his own pocket, it does not appear to be the duty of a wise man to lose such an opportunity of making his name immortal at others' expense.

Many might argue that Sir A. Fraser has undertaken this scheme with the good motive of benefiting us, and that accordingly he has shown towards us the height of magnanimity. But we are such ungrateful creatures that we cannot feel grateful to His Honour for this unsolicited boon of his. The reasons are (1) the college is to be started with our money, but we never asked His Honour for a new college, (2) the college is not expected to benefit the poorer and the middle classes of the native community, (3) the same Government which is laying the axe at the root of high education in our country and closing its doors to us for all time, is proposing the opening of a new college to impart high education to us.

A large amount of subscriptions has already been collected in aid of this scheme, and Sir A. Fraser would have us believe that in every case the donations were voluntary. But we inquire if those donations would have come in if Sir A. Fraser himself were not the father of the project. Although Sir A. Fraser is proposing this college only to increase our facilities for obtaining high education, we cannot find it in our heart to thank His Honour for it. But if he could make this college a free one for the benefit of the poorer sections of the community, and if he had collected a like amount of subscriptions for the relief of the water-scarcity from which the Province suffers, then indeed we would have felt it our duty to thank him and express our gratitude to him.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

27. The *Khulnavasi* [Khulna] of the 3rd June complains that whereas hitherto Government employés in that station drawing pay at Rs. 20 or Rs. 15 per mensem used to be supplied with medicines for the use of themselves and their wives and children *gratis* from

the local Government civil medical store, the District Magistrate has recently compelled them to pay monthly subscription to the dispensary. Is there any rule that every Government employé without distinction must subscribe to the Government dispensary? It is suggested, for the favourable consideration of Government, that all Government employés on less than Rs. 30 be exempted from contributing in aid of the dispensary.

28. The *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 9th June complains that the citizens of Calcutta and more specially those living in its suburbs are suffering no end of misery in this excessively hot weather on account of a scarcity of the water-supply. The difficulty is most felt in the Karrya quarter of the town, where there are large *mahallas* of mud huts, without any public road intersecting them and consequently without any public hydrants on them either. The inhabitants of such *mahallas* are compelled to satisfy their wants with the one or two *mashaks* of water which the *bhistie* supplies them with, and for the rest to take to the use of the contaminated water of the nearest tank. It is suggested that the Municipality should set up hydrants for the use of these *mahallas*, even though there may be no public roads across them.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

29. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 6th June draws attention to the following inconvenience to passengers in connection with the steamers which ply on the rivers in East Bengal. Almost every steamer has two pumps for drawing water up, but in practice it is always seen that only one of the two pumps is worked, so that both the steamer passengers and the steamer crew (*khalasees*) use the same pump. And the habits of the majority of these *khalasees* are extremely repugnant to those of the usual run of passengers. For instance, these *khalasees*, after taking their meals, empty their dishes in front of this pump. Again, the steamer *baburchees* (cooks) throw all the scourings of the kitchen in the same neighbourhood. While a passenger may be bathing, one *khalasee* may be waiting with a piece of flesh in his hand to get it washed, or another may be

KHULNAVASI,
June 3rd, 1905.

SOLTAN,
June 9th, 1905.

CHARU MIHIR,
June 6th, 1905.

similarly carrying the dish off which he had just taken his meal to have it cleansed at the mouth of the pump. It is suggested that a separate pump should be set apart for the use of the *khalasees*.

NIHAR,
June 13th, 1905.

DAILY HITAVADI,
June 13th, 1905.

30. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 13th June complains of the delay to which boats laden with merchandise for the Contai and Balighai bazars are put at the Itamgara and Terpakhia lock-gates on the Hejlee Tidal Canal owing to a sufficient depth of water not being available in the canal, except at the time of tides.

31. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 13th June complains that in this grilling hot weather, on none of the stations of the East Indian Railway is there any adequate arrangement for the supply of drinking water to the passengers. The single *pani-pande* (waterman) with his single mugful of water is not sufficient to quench the thirst of all the passengers. Before he can go round three or four carriages, the train usually starts off again, and the rest of the passengers, some travelling with children perhaps, have nothing for it but to wait for the train to come to the next station. It is suggested that the through trains should have each their special compartment containing large tanks of water, on the lines of the existing arrangements for the carriage of ice, lemonade, etc.

Reference is also made to the extensive overcrowding which prevails in the intermediate-class compartment on the train which leaves Howrah every evening for Kalka at 8-3 in the evening.

(h)—General.

FARIDPUR HITAISHINI,
May 14th, 1905.

SANSODHINI,
June 9th, 1905.

32. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 14th May writes in high terms of praise of Babu Gopal Chandra Mukerjee, The District Magistrate and the District Judge of Faridpur. who, it is said, during the short time he has been in that office has succeeded in winning the approbation of all classes of people by his methods of administering justice.

The same paper also writes appreciatively of the punctuality, ability, coolness, and urbanity which characterise Mr. Satyendra Mallik, the District Judge of Faridpur, in the discharge of his official duties.

33. The *Sansodhini* [Chittagong] of the 9th June has the following:—

Mr. Dixon, District Magistrate of Chittagong. Mr. Dixon is every day winning the approbation of the public by his good-heartedness. He worked heart and soul in saving the lives of the poor after the great storm. He has the deepest sympathy with rich and poor alike. Rai Nityananda Ray Bahadur has been ailing for some time past. Mr. Dixon paid a visit to the Rai Bahadur at his residence at Chakbazar and was so affected by the sight of the Rai Bahadur's health that he could not refrain from shedding tears. Such unexpected sympathy on the part of an English Magistrate with a leading public man is certainly an example worthy of future imitation and is unparalleled in this district. Mr. Dixon also, the other day, wrote to express sympathy with the local *vakil*, Annada Babu, on hearing that the latter's infant son had been attacked with cholera. The two brothers, the zamindars of Bara Uthan, are now at loggerheads. Mr. Dixon has intervened and is making strenuous efforts to compromise their quarrel. There are numerous criminal cases on the list, which he has set apart for peaceful arbitration.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
June 8th, 1905.

34. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 8th June fears that the reorganization of the Registration Department by making the posts of Rural Sub-Registrars salaried may have the effect of leading Sub-Registrars to neglect their work. Nowadays they work hard because there is the inducement that the more documents they can register the larger will be their income. But when they will begin to draw fixed salaries they may shirk work. Who is there to check them if they do so?

35. Referring to the scheme of reorganization of the Bengal Registration Department, lately sanctioned by Government, the *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 12th June writes as follows in its English columns:—

The reorganization of the Registration Department, Bengal.

In the main and on principle, there is nothing seriously objectionable in this measure of reform, though it may mean some hardship and inconvenience to interested parties. But there is one clause in this document which we take exception to. It is distinctly laid down in the clause in question "that service rendered by Rural Sub-Registrars prior to the introduction of the scheme should not count for pension." The same cruel fate would surely have to be shared by their office underlings. This means gross injustice to the existing members of the Department and their subordinate officers. Before the introduction of the innovation they could serve as long as health permitted them to do so, there being no restriction on account of age. But, under the new scheme, they would have to retire on the expiration of their 55th year. In fact, many of them would have to retire at once or at no distant future on no pension or only a nominal pension. There is no provision made in the scheme for these unfortunate people. Cannot the paternal Government devise any means to undo the mischief done to them? We hope Sir Andrew Fraser will, with his reputation of a sympathetic ruler, take their case into his careful consideration and, with the sanction and approval of the Government of India, make some favourable concessions in their behalf.

DACCA GAZETTE,
June 12th, 1905.

36. In noticing the recent Government scheme providing for the payment of salaries instead of commissions to Sub-Registrars, the *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 13th June expresses a fear that the change in the status of these officers may simply be the prelude to a policy on the part of Government to get these posts filled by Eurasians and Europeans, to the exclusion of the children of the soil.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
June 13th, 1905.

37. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 8th June writes strongly against the working of the Patna Excise Department. During the seven years of his stay in Patna the number of toddy-shops has increased so abnormally there that in some places even 10 or 12 such shops are now to be found within one mile. Some places have become so bad that respectable people possessing delicate feelings shrink from passing through them. In the Nayatola quarter of Bankipur there is situated the boarding-house attached to the local high English school for girls. But on both sides of it there are toddy shops within the distance of a few cubits, in which obscene songs and drunken revelries run rampant during all hours of the day. Recently a toddy-shop has been opened at a short distance from the school also. Has it been right and judicious on the part of the local Excise officers to open toddy-shops in such objectionable sites for the sake of promotion in their service? The attention of the District Magistrate and the Divisional Commissioner is drawn to the matter.

SANJIVANI,
June 8th, 1905.

38. The same paper writes as follows:—

The working of the Patna Excise Department.

No previous Viceroy of India was so fond of shows as Lord Curzon. Never before did we see such *nababi*. Recently His Excellency has desired to acquire many of the buildings north of the Government House, Calcutta, for the purpose of constructing an office building. But the European shopkeepers who occupy these buildings are not less powerful than the Government. It is upon these Europeans that the fate of the question as to whether His Excellency is to have a marble statue in Calcutta depends. Lord Curzon is therefore sure to be worsted in this conflict with the European shopkeepers. And this defeat of Lord Curzon will save the country many lakhs of rupees. We therefore pray for the victory of the European shopkeepers in this matter.

SANJIVANI.

39. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th June writes as follows with reference to the agitation in the Anglo-Indian Press of Calcutta in regard to the Rolt case:—

DAILY HITAVADI,
June 9th, 1905.

We do not know whether Government will be terrified into bowing its head before the storm or whether it will be able to stick to its resolution till the end. But all the signs, as we read them, point to the probability that

the Government will ultimately have to eat humble pie. The Indian Government has never yet shown itself strong enough to disregard for long any capricious demand made by the influential non-official European community of this country. Who does not know that it was in response to the demand of that community that Lord Curzon did not shrink from humiliating even Sir H. Cotton, the popular Chief Commissioner of Assam? The native public have come to believe that the Government shows this eagerness to meet the demands of the official Europeans, because their demands are accompanied with the threat of the use of force. If the present agitation in regard to Mr. Rolt's case leads to the separation of the judicial from the executive functions in this country, then we must say that it was all for our good; and in that case we shall remain grateful to the Anglo-Indian community for all time. But if the Government tries to gratify the caprice of the Anglo-Indian community by simply meting out condign punishment to the Government officials connected with the case, and if the Anglo-Indian community thereupon cease agitating, then we must say that it will be a most mischievous termination of the affair. For in that case, no District Magistrate will dare in the future to accuse any European of any offence, even though the most serious reasons exist for bringing such an accusation. Oppression will in that case only increase instead of decreasing.

RANGPUR VARTAVAHA,
June 9th, 1905.

40. The *Rangpur Vartavaha* [Rangpur] of the 9th June complains that the present Sub-Postmaster of the Rangpur Bazar sub-post office is a man ignorant of the rules of his business, and makes the following allegation as justification for this opinion. A peon in the employ of the local Jai Press came to him after 6 P.M. on the 9th June and applied to him for a posting certificate for a railway receipt to be sent per book post. The postmaster declined to accept the packet on the ground that the mail bag had been already closed. The peon offered to pay the usual 'late fee' required in such cases, and his offer was afterwards repeated by his master, who pointed out that it wanted at that time a full hour before the mail bag was to be despatched, and that therefore there could be no objection to its being opened. But the postmaster obstinately stuck to his first refusal.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
June 12th, 1905.

41. Recounting the pitiable condition of the postal employés from the mail runner to the Babu—so overworked and underpaid—a correspondent of the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 12th June recommends that the practice of taking a contribution of one rupee a year from the employés to the Postal Guarantee Fund may be discontinued as a relief to the poor postal officers.

DAINIK CHANDRIKA,
June 10th, 1905.

42. The *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 10th June makes the allegation that, in view of the approaching marriage of the daughter of a certain superior clerk in the Calcutta Government Telegraph Office, a regular system of *nassars*, based on the scale of their respective salaries, is being levied on the inferior clerks. The clerk whose daughter is going to be married keeps himself in the background and uses one or two of his immediate intimate subordinates as his agents for this purpose.

BHARAT MITRA,
June 10th, 1905.

43. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 10th June says that in giving Government employments, love of kith and kin is strikingly increasing among Englishmen. This love is making them forget to distinguish between right and wrong, ability to hold the post in the candidate and otherwise, with the result that competent native candidates are being debarred from obtaining ordinary posts. The Inspector-General of Police has furnished a fresh example of this love. Out of the 24 appointments of Police Inspectors, 20 have been filled up by Europeans and native Christians, while only four have fallen to the lot of the natives. These are the reforms in Lord Curzon's term of office.

HITAVARTA,
June 11th, 1905.

44. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 11th June expresses its obligations to Sir Andrew Fraser not so much for his punishing officers like Mr. Carey as for His Honour's general dislike of officers whose conduct is not good.

45. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 12th June says that the law relating to the preservation of ancient monuments

Two memorial buildings in Bengal requiring repairs.

DAILY HITAVADI,
June 12th, 1905.

is one of the few acts for which Lord Curzon will be remembered with gratitude by Indians. The number of ancient monuments in India is very large and it is not possible to repair them all at once. But such of them as are on the highway to decay and destruction should be the first to be repaired. Under this class fall the house called *Saym-ka-takiya* in Rajmahal, in which Siraj-ud-daula concealed himself after the Battle of Plassey, and the tomb of Miran, the son of Mir Jaffar, in the same town. Nothing has as yet been done to repair these landmarks of the history of Bengal. The attention of the Government is therefore drawn to the matter.

III.—LEGISLATION.

46. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 8th June writes as follows :—

The interpellation about the Khulna forest case.

We are fallen on very bad days. However

much we may try not to speak against officials, we are compelled to do so by their own conduct. Nowadays officials appear not to care at all for the correctness of the statements they happen to make. When the Hon'ble Mr. Bhupendranath Basu made an interpellation in the Bengal Legislative Council about the Khulna forest case, the reply was given from the side of the Government that it was not true that the defendants in the case had not been allowed opportunities to defend themselves. But the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, which has been now furnished with the records of the case, proves from those very records that the allegation formerly made by it and also made the subject of interpellation in the Council was true and that the Government's reply was false and incorrect. It is a matter of deep regret that a civilized Government in the twentieth century should give incorrect and irresponsible answers in order to silence enquirers. Such answers produce two bad effects—(1) they make officials disregard interpellations in Councils, and (2) they lead people to form a low opinion of the Government. If Government does not keep, or does not care to keep, correct information about the doings of its officials and at the same time stigmatises the information supplied by others as false without enquiry, how long can people have respect for it?

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IV.—NATIVE STATES.

47. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 10th June writes that there is a school of politicians in this country who are strongly

A State college in Kashmir.

opposed to the spread of high education here.

And Lord Curzon is much in sympathy with the opinion of this school. It was he who was responsible for the Universities Act. It was during his administration that difficulty cropped up in regard to the Tippera Raj College and there was a reversal of the old conditions prevailing in the Burdwan Raj College. And now it is said that the Kashmir Raj wished to open a college in that State, but that the obstruction of the local Political Agent stands in the way. Why are such scandalous obstructions to the spread of high education repeatedly occurring during Lord Curzon's régime? A separate college at Srinagar has long appeared a necessity to the present ruler of that State in view of the growing number of intelligent Kashmiris who aspire to the benefits of a high education, and who, under existing circumstances, are put to the inconvenience of a distant journey to Lahore in order to reap those benefits. A railway to Kashmir is now being strongly supported by the British Resident—a project which will cost crores to the State Treasury, without any hope of adequate returns, if one is to judge by the example of the railways in British India. And yet while such a heavy charge on the State Treasury is being encouraged by the British Resident, the much smaller outlay on a college is being resisted.

HITAVADI.
June 10th, 1905.

48. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 11th June is glad to hear that the

The Gaekwar of Baroda.

Gaekwar of Baroda has issued a circular directing that every district shall hold a conference, pre-

sided over by the local District Judge, and that the local Magistrate, Munsif and

HITAVARTA.
June 11th, 1905.

pleader shall be its members. The result of their deliberations will be placed before the Durbar, which will then introduce laws in accordance with the recommendations by the various conferences. Is it not a matter of shame to see our Government, boasting of its superior civilization, not introducing reforms like the educated Maharaja of Baroda in the administration of the country? The Lieutenant-Governor held a conference with his subordinate officers only. The result has been the issue of a mischievous circular, which would not have been the case if the representatives of the people had been invited to the conference.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

KHULNAVASI,
June 3rd, 1905.

49. A correspondent of the *Khulnavasi* [Khulna] of the 3rd June mentions the wants and grievances of cultivators in the Sunderbans. The wants and grievances of the cultivators of the Sunderbans :—

- (1) The exactions and the usurious practices of the *ganidars*, *painidars* or *mahajans*, and also of their *naibs* and *gomastahs*.
- (2) The want of any arrangement for the supply of qualified medical assistance, there being not a single official or unofficial charitable dispensary in the whole tract of the Sunderbans south of Khulna.
- (3) The want of a supply of pure, sweet drinking-water. For this purpose tanks might be dug at specially selected spots, where the water is sweet, as the one, for example, in the *abad* (plantation) of Babu Mathuranath Nag, the well-known *vakil* of Khulna.
- (4) Difficulty of getting gun-licenses. Formerly gun-licenses were freely granted, but last year some difficulty was made about them. And although later on the rules were relaxed, the cultivators were too frightened to apply again for them.

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June 11th, 1905.

50. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 11th June had heard that in places the crops were showing signs of improvement on account of the rainfall, but they were all killed by subsequent frost. The Government ought therefore to take steps to prevent the distress becoming more serious.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
June 6th, 1905.

51. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 6th June writes under the heading "Where to find shelter?" :—

Zamindars and public subsciptions. Where are the zamindars of the country to find shelter? There is a limit to everything. But is there any limit to the subscriptions, proper and improper, which are being levied on the zamindars of the country?

Nobody has the power to say "nay" to the requests for subscriptions made by the highest person in the land from his abode in the hills for the relief of the distress caused by the earthquake. This is a call which must be obeyed, must be met. Upon whom is not a command of the Viceroy binding? Can those who desire dignity and honour afford to do anything displeasing to the Viceroy?

What zamindar can consider himself safe if he does not pay the subsciptions which are being called for by Sir Andrew Fraser in aid of his Ranchi College scheme? Sir Andrew Fraser inaugurated this excellent scheme with the intention of securing the highest good of the natives of the country. Its benefits are largely to be shared by the zamindars, for it is their children who are to be educated in it, along with the children of members of other sections of the community. Accordingly subscribing to the Ranchi College fund is a bounden duty, refusal of which would be a great sin.

Then, again, the visit of the Prince of Wales to this country must be considered a great piece of good fortune for the country. Such being the case, the zamindar has yet to be born in this country who can dare to refuse to contribute his share for the getting up of a proper welcome to His Royal Highness.

Next there is Lady Fraser interesting herself in getting up subscriptions in aid of the Lady Dufferin Fund. Nobody supposes that if Her Ladyship's generous intentions are explained to the noble-minded inmates of the *zenana*, she will meet with any disappointment in her expectations of aid.

Besides all these, there are occasional petty subscriptions which must be paid to conciliate the Commissioner, the Collector and other local officials. Where then are the zamindars to look for shelter? Probably there is no shelter for them on earth. The zamindars are helplessly enmeshed in a web of subscriptions. Subscriptions are wound round zamindars like a coil and they suffer severely.

Such being the circumstances, nobody can seriously blame the zamindars, if in their desire to please the ruling powers, they sometimes resort to oppressive measures on their tenants in order to raise funds.

52. *The Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 8th June writes as follows :—

The moral effects of Japan's victory.

The people of Europe and America never dreamt that prowess so tremendous as that lately

displayed by the Japanese lurked among the inhabitants of a small island in the Far East. The delusive belief that Easterners are destined to remain in perpetual tutelage and servitude to Westerners will now probably disappear from many a Western mind.

Europeans so long refused to believe in the possibility of prowess among people living on rice and fish, lying on mats and wearing loose clothes. What more convincing demonstration of this than the example of the rice-eating Bengali? But they now see that the rice-eating Easterner is no way inferior, but rather immensely superior, to the flesh-eating and liquor-drinking European in vigour and prowess. What more convincing evidence of this, again, than the example of the rice-eating Jap? The heroism displayed by Japan has struck terror into many a Western heart. Europeans are slowly coming to see that heroism is no monopoly of theirs, that many a soul as truly terrible in its heroism as the African lion wandering free in his native forests, still breathes in the East. They also see that the East is far ahead of the West in point of morality; that the thrift, the diligence, the endurance, the abstinence, and the forbearance of the nations of the East have but few examples among those of the West.

What hitherto gave the West its predominance over the East was its material civilization. This was its sole title to give itself airs of superiority over the East. But Europeans now see that the moment an oriental people mastered European science it humbled the head of one of the proudest Powers of the West and by its military resources, no less than by its unprecedented tactics, reduced that Power to sore straits in almost no time.

The fear of Russia is always strong in the heart of England. The Tibet affair is a product of that fear, although it is quite possible that other reasons also had a share in originating it. The difficulties on the North-Western frontier are also a creation of that fear. It is now felt necessary to import troops from England in larger numbers for the defence of India against Russian aggression. Why? Cannot Russian aggression be checked with the help of Indian troops? If the rice-eating Jap is capable of throwing into utter rout and disorder the Russian soldier, cannot the rice-eating Indian, also, if properly trained, do the same? The British soldier may possibly shrink in fear from the wild war-dance of the terrible Cossack. But not so the steadfast, dutiful and well-trained Indian soldier.

The East is sure to triumph over the West if it can only master the latter's science. The Western intelligence pales before the Eastern intelligence.

It is not easy to see why the English should not, under these circumstances, employ Indian soldiers for the defence of India. Fear and distrust must be the sole reason for their unwillingness to do this. They will probably give out in public that war is no business for the rice-eating Bengali. But it is difficult to reconcile this contempt expressed by the English for Indians with the fact of their disarming the same Indians in spite of the destructive ravages committed by wild beasts in this country. It appears from the last Administration Report published by Government that 90 men and a very large number of

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domestic cattle were killed by wild beasts during that year. It is clear that owing to its deep distrust of Indians the Government will never make use of them for the defence of India, although in a time of peril (which God forbid!) the Indian soldier will prove himself more staunch and steadfast in the field than the European soldier.

The English officials have already a deep distrust of Indians. The triumph of Japan will have the effect of making that distrust even deeper. They will no longer be disposed to regard the Asiatic as an ordinary being—the Asiatic who, with his simple diet of rice and fish and no stronger drink than water, has trodden down like flies in the dust the finest soldiers in Europe.

BHARAT MITRA.
June 10th, 1905.

A protest meeting in England against Lord Curzon's Convocation speech.

of the speech delivered by Mr. Dada Bhai Naoroji at the meeting held in London to protest against Lord Curzon's Convocation speech.

BANGAVASI,
June 10th, 1905.

53. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 10th June gives the substance of the speech delivered by Mr. Dada Bhai Naoroji at the meeting held in London to protest against Lord Curzon's Convocation speech.

54. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 10th June writes:—

The son of our Emperor—the Prince of Wales—^{The Prince of Wales's visit to India.} is to visit India. We cannot hold ourselves because of our joy at this thought. Of course the people of

India will give indications of their loyalty and the Prince will understand them. There can be no difficulty about this. For the heartiness of respect is then most felt when it is self-prompted, while not unoften it becomes impossible accurately to gauge the depth of sincerity, amidst all the show of eloquence at meetings and the sounds of music at invitation parties. Anyhow, a meeting is going to be held here in order to decide what is to be done to give a fitting welcome to the Prince when he comes to Calcutta. It is to be held at the Town Hall on the 1st July next and is to be presided over by the Lieutenant-Governor in person. We ask, will the Prince just have any good opportunity of getting an idea of the loyalty of the Indian people in the midst of all these projected meetings and invitation parties? Meetings have been already held, are now being held, and will continue to be held. They will be held, irrespective of whether anybody does or does not wish them to be held. But we suggest that in the present instance no meeting be held, so that one may have an opportunity of witnessing for once how the citizens of Calcutta of their own accord welcome the Prince. Let one see with what the possessor of crores on the one hand and the beggar who lies in the cottage on the other, receive and welcome their King's son. Let the Prince have this time an opportunity of seeing how his father's subjects show their respect for him on the occasion of his auspicious visit to this city. No fuss, no spending of money: let the Prince once drive through the streets of the city and then he will see that while the millionaire has set off the grandeur of his palace with guns and with golden lamps, the humble dweller of the cottage has been equally eager to throw a halo of light around his miserable hut by the aid of earthen lamps. The Prince will then feel that the deep and effusive loyalty felt for His Royal Highness has of itself thrown off a ray of happiness around the skeleton-like frame of the poor cottager with his worn and dirty clothing and his weeping eyes and shrunken face. Let the Prince have an opportunity of feeling all this. Let one see for once if his loyal subjects cannot move the admiration of the whole world by furnishing a unique example of loyalty by investing the Prince, while driving freely through the city, with the sacred garland of sincere and hearty respect.

HINDI BANGAVASI.
June 12th, 1905.

55. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 12th June is of opinion that the people of this country should be given an opportunity this time to accord a welcome to the Prince of Wales in the way they think proper, and that no public meeting should be held to devise measures for the same, for His Royal Highness should be given an opportunity to see how the loyal subjects of his father do their homage to him on his arrival in this country.

HITAVARTA.
June 11th, 1905.

56. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 11th June, in reviewing the history of this country during the last thousand years, Lord Curzon's policy. ascribes the changes in its rulers to two reasons, viz., vanity or luxury in its rulers owing to possession of wealth and the employment of mercenaries to defend the country against invaders. Both of these are now being seen in the British rulers also.

The following passage is quoted from Lord Curzon's speech at the United Service Club to show the emasculating policy of Great Britain towards India:—

"We must remain in India, because if we were to withdraw, the whole system of Indian life and politics would break up like a pack of cards. We are absolutely necessary to India. I cannot myself conceive of a time as remotely possible in which it would be either practical or desirable that we should take our hand from the Indian plough (cheers)."

Thus reducing the people to the state of a weak and lifeless nation, the English are ruling them with ease and comfort. Their easy life has made them so careless as to make them disregard the petitions of the Indians; nay, sometimes they consider them as unnecessarily made. They are not afraid of the petitions, criticisms and disaffection of the people. Having emasculated the natives, they do not apprehend any internal commotion. The recent Russo-Japanese war has, however, awakened them from their slumber, and the defence of India has become a prominent topic of the current politics of England.

57. The same paper has the following:—

Lord Curzon and the Missions. The authorities know that a good deal of India's money has been wasted, through the imprudence of Lord Curzon, on a mission which has come to nothing, but to admit it would be showing disrespect to Lord Curzon. They have therefore tried to assure the public that whatever has been done is quite enough. But we ask: What have we gained by it? Did the present Amir decline to abide by the treaty made with his father? * * * * * All that we see of this mission is that certain persons have obtained some titles. We can understand the conferring of titles of honour on the members of the Tibet Mission, because we see that they killed a number of men, demolished many monasteries, and had themselves to endure great hardships. But what has the Afghan Mission done to deserve these honours?

58. In noticing the same subject, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 10th June makes the following observations:—

Lord Curzon and the Missions. For the services which the Kabul Mission has done, Mr. Louis Dane, President of the mission, has been honoured with a K.C.S.I., and another member of the mission with a C.I.E. Why these titles, when the mission could not do anything new? Well, it is for returning safe and sound, for the custom of the country is to distribute sweetmeats when one comes back safely to his home.

59. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 12th June writes as follows:—

"Western vanity and civilization." In the eyes of Western people Easterners are not even worthy of being called men. With the exception of a few scholars versed in oriental languages and literatures, the European public consider themselves superior to oriental nations in every way. This is why Europeans are ashamed of doing anything on the principle that orientals are their equals. The Amir of Afghanistan is more powerful, intelligent and educated than many of the potentates in Europe. But the Government of India so long used to treat him as a mere sardar. The late Amir Abdur Rahaman was in every way superior to the rulers of such European countries as Bulgaria, Servia, etc. But whilst the latter used to be called "Their Majesties" and ranked as "Kings," the Government of India used to call the former "His Highness" and never recognised him as a "King." But recently the fear of a Russian invasion of India has compelled the English to forsake this occidental vanity and call the Amir "His Majesty" and a "King." So long as their interest is not endangered Western nations try their best to maintain their vanity. This characteristic vanity of theirs is patent in the Russo-Japanese War. Russia is hesitating to make peace with Japan simply because the Japanese are an oriental nation. Among the Western Powers England is as clever as conceited. That conceit and pride which are the outcome of an insular life prevent England from acknowledging the greatness of others. Even Napoleen, the conqueror of Europe, was not acknowledged by England as the Emperor of France. And that England to-day proclaims Amir Habibulla as an independent Sovereign. This is an example of the superior astuteness of the English. It is because Japan has defeated a Western nation in war that England is so anxious to tighten the bonds of friendship with her. The desire of dividing Asia among themselves was so long strong in the minds of the Western nations. But now

HITAVARTA.
June 11th, 1905.

BHARAT MITRA,
June 10th, 1905.

DAILY HITAVADI,
June 12th, 1905.

that the might of Japan has immensely increased by her victories, England has resolved to forsake the other Western nations and extend her supremacy in Asia by making friends with Japan. We do not know what civilization and enlightenment really mean in the West. That nation which was, ten years ago, called a nation of semi-civilized barbarians by the Western Powers is now greeted by them as highly civilized and enlightened. This shows that according to the Westerners the index of civilization is physical strength. China is still uncivilized and barbarous in their eyes. But the instant she will be able to defeat a Western Power in war she will be considered as civilized as Japan. The vanity of the West cannot be removed but by physical strength. When to us the Westerners first proclaimed their glory, we did not know that in their opinion physical strength was the sole criterion of power. India, with her store of wisdom born of her ancient civilization and swayed by high Brahmanic feeling, proved to the world that intellectual power was everything and that physical strength was nothing. But the Western people paid no heed to that argument. At last when the Kshatriya Japan defeated them with physical strength the European nations embraced her as their friend, and everyone understood that physical strength was the only means of securing the friendship of the worshippers of truth for ever.

DAILY HITAVADI.
June 13th, 1905.

60. In noticing a proposal made by a correspondent in the columns of the *Pioneer* that the Prince of Wales, with the co-operation of the Viceroy, should take advantage of his forthcoming visit to India to inaugurate a festival in honour of the Emperor Akbar over his grave at Fatehpur Sikri on the 15th October next, which is the tri-centenary of his death, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 13th June writes:—

There can be no question that the proposal is a good one, and indicative of the correspondent's ability to appreciate merit. But our Viceroy is dooming our system of education to destruction while nominally engaged in reforming it. Division is the guiding policy of his rule. He has never hesitated to express his hearty contempt for the people he is ruling over. His administration is widening the breach between the governors and the governed. In the bestowal of appointments in the public service he has displayed a bias in favour of Eurasians and Europeans. By abolishing the competitive test, he has placed difficulties in the way of competent and educated natives entering the public service. Can such a Viceroy be a proper person to be associated with an Akbar festival? Will not the remembrance of Akbar's liberal and impartial policy make him hang down his head in shame? Will not the praise of Akbar's policy from his lips sound as a condemnation of his own policy?

Has Lord Curzon been able to show the profound statesmanship and generosity which enabled Akbar to govern all his subjects with equal benevolence and to convert the Hindus into ornaments and pillars of the fabric of his Empire? In Akbar's Empire, 11 per cent. of the high offices of State were held by Hindus, and no office was closed to Hindus as such. But in Lord Curzon's *régime* not more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of all the highest posts under Government can be held by Hindus and Musalmans combined. Is this an example of liberality and justice? Agitation for the admission of natives into the high offices of State is now met on behalf of Government by pleas of incompetence of the natives. Under British rule, the competence both of Hindus and Musalmans for high offices of State has disappeared. Is that the nectar-like fruit of British rule in India? Considering the direction of the present policy of Government, and considering the way in which Lord Curzon, in spite of his industry and ability, is unfolding a policy of favouritism, wholly inimical to the advancement of the subject people, joining an Akbar festival is the last act which can become His Excellency. But whether Lord Curzon does or does not make any move in favour of an Akbar festival, we at least ought no longer to remain inactive. It is a matter of the greatest reproach to us to remain indifferent to the proposal of getting up a celebration in honour of an Emperor who by his extraordinary genius succeeded in holding Hindus and Musalmans together and thereby succeeded in prolonging the duration of the Mogul Empire, and who by his knowledge of state-craft, his foresight and his urbanity was quite on a par with his contemporary Sovereigns in Europe. We trust our Musalman fellow-citizens will take the lead in the proposed movement.

URIYA PAPERS.

61. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 31st May is glad to find that Government has made no distinction between the Uriyas and Bengalis domiciled in Orissa in respect of admission into the Cuttack Survey School and the Orissa Medical School.

Uriyas and Bengalis and the Cuttack Survey and Medical Schools.

62. The same paper

Grievances of chaukidars and dafadars.

treatment accorded to them by the local police that they refused to carry out the orders of the police, and were, in consequence, summarily dismissed. The matter has been brought to the notice of the Commissioner of Orissa, and it is hoped that he will pay attention to the complaints of the dafadars in question.

63. The same paper complains that some Cuttack candidates for police head-constabularies were required by the Inspector General of Police to furnish health certificates from the Civil Surgeon of Cuttack at a cost of

Cuttack candidates for head-constabularies.

Rs. 16 each and to proceed to Calcutta at their own cost, to appear personally before the Inspector-General before they were appointed as head-constables. The writer, therefore, requests the Police authorities so to modify their recent orders regarding the appointment of head-constables as not to put the candidates to unnecessary expense and trouble.

64. The demise of the Revd. Bhai Pratap Chandra Mazumdar, the well-known Brahmo missionary of Calcutta, is mourned by all the native papers of Orissa. Having

a strong and marked personality, he was a leader and a reformer who had liberal and sympathetic views. His death carries off a moral force from Indian society which it will be difficult to replace for many years to come.

65. The *Samvad Vanika* [Balasore] of the 1st June states that cessation of rain until the end of *Jaisth* will facilitate agricultural operations.

66. The same paper is glad that the proprietor of Kanika has contributed Rs. 960, and the Rajas of Talcher and Dharacote Rs. 200 each to the Utkal Union Conference Fund. The contributions will no doubt prove useful in various ways.

Contributions to the Utkal Union Conference Fund.

67. The *Star of Utkal* [Cuttack] of the 3rd June and the *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 3rd June make similar announcements.

68. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 3rd June says that great inconveniences are being felt at Talcher for want of a town postman in the Talcher post office, and requests the Postal authorities to remove this want as soon as possible.

69. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 3rd June states that on Monday, the 29th May, a good shower of rain fell in the Cuttack town as also in the interior of that district.

Rain in Cuttack.

70. The same paper says that the general health of the Cuttack town was good in the last week.

71. The same paper states that on the night of the 29th May some one flayed two cows alive in the Cuttack Cantonment pound and carried off the skin, and the offender is said to have been arrested by the police.

A case of alleged flaying alive of two cows.

72. The same paper states that petty thefts are reported to have been committed in the town and that the police show skill in arresting the offenders, but the writer thinks that it is better to prevent crimes than to arrest offenders after their commission.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD,
May 31st, 1905.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD.

ALL THE NATIVE PAPERS.

SAMVAD VAHICA,
June 1st, 1905.

SAMVAD VAHICA.

STAR OF UTKAL,
June 3rd, 1905.

GARJATBASINI,
June 3rd, 1905.

UTKALDIPAKA,
June 3rd, 1905.

UTKALDIPAKA.

UTKALDIPAKA.

UTKALDIPAKA.

UTKALDIPAKA,
June 3rd, 1905.

Price of mangoes.

UTKALDIPAKA.

73. The Jajpur correspondent of the same paper states that ripe mangoes sell there at a cheap rate.

74. Learning from its contemporary of the *Star of Utkal* that high education in the Ganjam district is in a very backward state, the same paper exhorts the Rajas,

zamindars and other gentlemen of means in that district to do their best to encourage such education in that district, and observes that any sincere and vigorous attempt on their part is sure to secure Government aid under the grant-in-aid rules.

UTKALDIPAKA.

75. The same paper is extremely sorry to see the Ravenshaw Hindu Girls' School, Cuttack, reduced from the status of a middle vernacular to that of an upper primary school on the ground that not a single girl from

that school passed the Middle Vernacular Examination in the last few years, and observes that the inability of the Uriyas to make a single girls' school work successfully shows that they are very backward in appreciating the value and importance of female education.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 17th June 1905.

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 24 of 1905.

REPORT (PART II)

ON

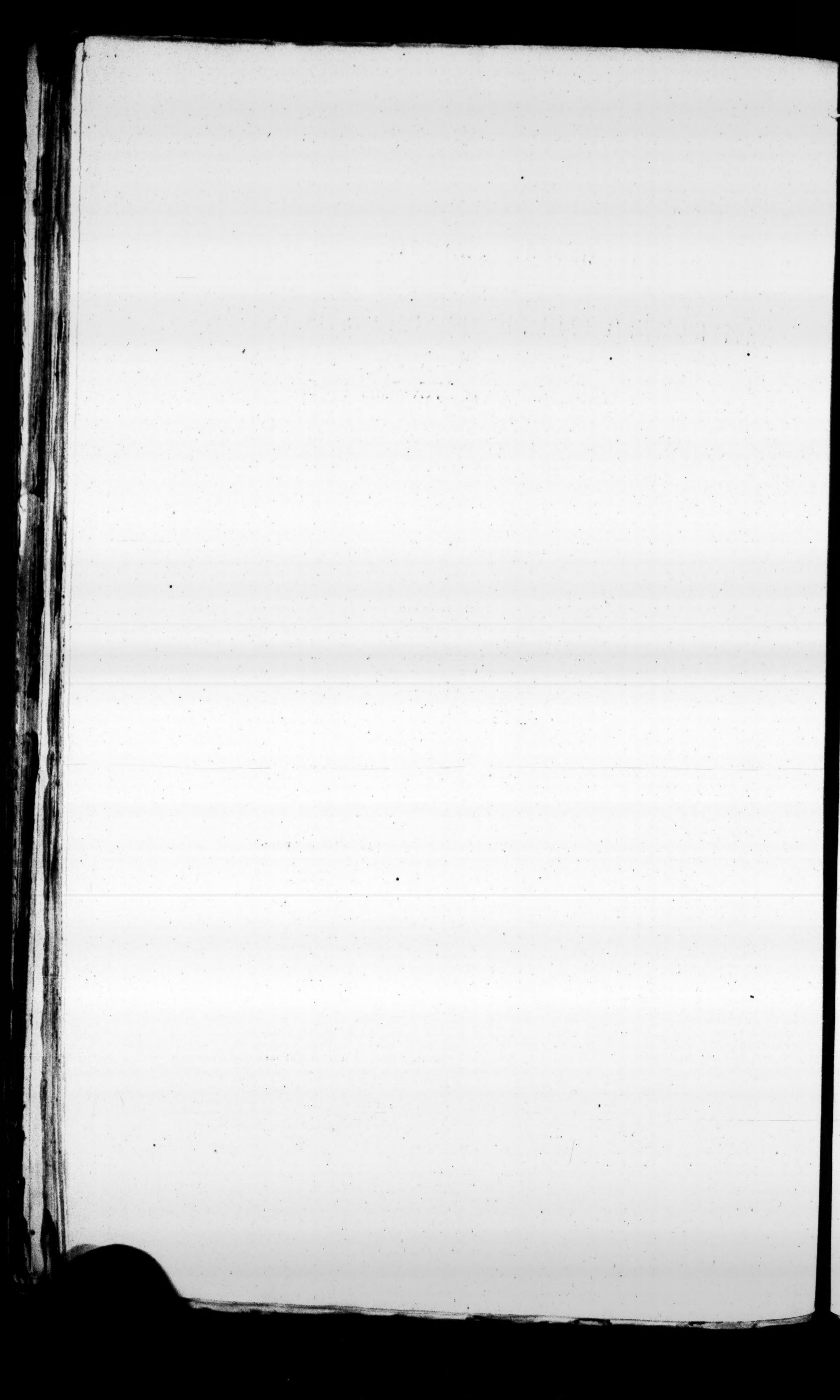
NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 17th June 1905.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

765. Inconsequential and unimportant as the Anglo-Afghan Treaty may appear, writes the *Bengalee*, there is one feature in The Anglo-Afghan Treaty. it that attracts pointed notice. Hitherto the Amirs, including Abdur Rahman himself, were designated "His Highness," but in the present treaty the Amir is spoken of as "His Majesty Amir Habibulla Khan, Independent King of the State of Afghanistan and its dependencies" and throughout the document "His Majesty" is used. The Secretary of State has tried to explain away this change, but no good purpose can be served by evasion, and the fact must be faced that there is some very valid reason for this sudden change in the title of the Amir. Every time a Mission has gone to Kabul, the Afghans have been the gainers. The late Amir wanted very much to have a direct representative at the Court of St. James, but was unsuccessful. Is not this matter likely to come up again in connection with the change in the Amir's title?

BENGALEE,
4th June 1905.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

766. The *Bengalee* is surprised to learn that of the twenty-four Inspectorships for which applications were invited by the Inspector-General of Police, only four have been given to natives! The journal does not blame Sir Andrew Fraser for this gross injustice, as the proportion of appointments to be reserved for Indians was laid down by a higher authority. It is now quite obvious that one, if not indeed the main, object of the Police Commission was to increase the European and Eurasian element in the ranks of the police force, the pay attaching to the lowest grade of Inspectorships having now been rendered sufficiently attractive. Thus the "police reform" for which the country is solely indebted to Lord Curzon is nothing more or less than the reduction of the Indian element and a corresponding increase in the European and Eurasian element in the several grades of Inspectors.

BENGALEE,
7th June 1905.

767. The *Bengalee* is confident that Lord Curzon, who takes so great an interest in individual cases of injustice, will carefully look into the hard case of Pala Singh, a jamadar of the Military Police, Mandalay. This man was enlisted as a sepoy in 1876, and after being employed in different capacities was appointed a second grade jamadar in 1891, and served as such till 1904, when he was suddenly dismissed. He appealed to the Commanding Officer against the *ex parte* order, but his appeal was rejected, and he was not allowed the opportunity of submitting any explanation. The jamadar comes of a respectable Sikh family and has rendered good service to the Government, having been awarded the Kabul and Burma war medals. Summary dismissal has been his recompense for honourable service, and this fact alone should attract the severe notice of Lord Curzon.

BENGALEE,
10th June 1905.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

768. The *Indian Empire* writes that of late the native Press has been loud in its condemnation of the illegal way in which offenders against the Forest Act are being tried, and gives an instance of how such prosecutions are being interfered with by Forest officers. One Misser Ali Sheikh was prosecuted under section 25 of the Act for having removed some *sundri* wood poles. The Subdivisional Officer, Bagerhat, would have tried the case in the usual course had not the Forest Officer, Sir Henry Farrington, written as follows:—"The Magistrate will kindly try the case at Saronkhola on the 4th." The Magistrate, quite forgetting his position as head of the district, did as he was told and punished the offenders at the dictation of the prosecutors! This version is borne out by the Sessions Judge of Khulna, who states that the accused had no reasonable opportunities of defending themselves, but nevertheless the Lieutenant-Governor publicly and emphatically denies these allegations.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
18th June 1905.

(c)—*Jails.*

BENGALEE,
10th June 1905.

769. The *Bengalee* expected to find in the first Jail Administration Report of Major Buchanan some attempt at grappling with the more urgent reforms, but in this regard it has been sorely disappointed, as the report in question does not rise beyond the level of the usual stereotyped Government return.

The journal considers that the health of the prisoners has always been a matter of standing reproach to the Department, and points out that this is directly due to the insanitary principle on which district jails are built. The only class of building which can be called fairly healthy are the newly-built central jails, and the remedy for the increasing fatality from tuberculosis lies in the construction of a large number of jails of this class in comparatively healthy districts and the reduction of the number of inmates in district jails.

The most urgently needed reform, however, is the improvement of the pay and prospects of the jailor and medical subordinate, as the remuneration they receive at present is wholly inadequate.

(d)—*Education.*

BENGALEE,
4th June 1905.

770. The *Bengalee* understands that the authorities of the Eden Hindu Hostel have notified that from the current month, no accommodation will be available for medical students and students of private colleges. As the latter are likely to have their own hostels shortly, they will not be inconvenienced by this arrangement as much as the unfortunate medical students who have no hostel of their own. Moreover, those medical students who have not their homes in Calcutta have been living in this hostel ever since their admission into the Medical College, and they are therefore entirely ignorant of the management of messes. Their guardians, too, would not like the idea of their joining private messes. As their number does not exceed twenty, it ought not to be difficult for the Eden Hostel authorities to find accommodation for them, more particularly as they have a claim to being provided for, being members of a Government college.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

BENGALEE,
7th June 1905.

771. The *Bengalee* writes that there appears to be a distinct falling off in the standard of efficiency which has hitherto characterized the administration of the Deoghur Municipality. Although section 241, Part VI, of the Bengal Municipal Act has not been extended to Deoghur, the Municipality insist on plans and specifications being submitted along with applications for the erection or re-erection of buildings. The proper course for this body to follow is distinctly laid down in section 237, sub-section (1), which requires that such applicants "shall give notice in writing and accompany such notice with a general description of the building, etc." Sub-section (2) of this section, however, provides that the Commissioners may require a plan and specification to be submitted by any rules they might make. As the power to make building rules is conferred on the Commissioners by section, 241 which is not in force in Deoghur, are they justified in insisting upon plans and specifications being submitted by rate-payers applying for the erection or re-erection of buildings?

BENGALEE,
8th June 1905.

772. The *Bengalee* writes that Babu Radha Churn Pal has done the rate-payers a distinct service by drawing prominent attention to the deplorable inefficiency of the Conservancy Department. The Mackenzie Act has made the Chairman solely responsible for the proper working of this Department and the duty of the Commissioners is restricted to the provision of funds. It is admitted by the Chairman that ample provision is made, but nevertheless there is a breakdown in the conservancy of the town year after year, thanks to the new Municipal Act. It is earnestly hoped that Sir Andrew Fraser will not, under a mistaken notion of prestige, refrain from suitably amending the Act.

773. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that while the rate-payers do not grudge their representatives a suitable Council Chamber and furniture, it considers that it is nothing short of criminal that close upon a million

The new Municipal Council Chamber.

rupees should have been expended for this purpose. The Chairman's chair alone is said to have cost Rs. 1,500 and the chairs of the Commissioners Rs. 175 each! Is not this riotous extravagance, and is it fair to saddle the already overburdened rate-payers of Calcutta with this wanton expenditure?

The journal urges upon the people the necessity of shaking off their accustomed lethargy and forming Rate-payers' Associations with a view not only to safeguarding their interests, but also to checking the extravagant tendencies of the present irresponsible Corporation.

774. A correspondent writing to the *Indian Mirror* complains of the want

Want of a public thoroughfare.

of a public thoroughfare in Sarnagarh, which is a

village in the district of Faridpur. Pangsa, which is three miles distant from this village, is a business centre and during the rainy season the inconvenience experienced by the people of Sarnagarh is very great. In the height of the rains sometimes all traffic is stopped and the people suffer financially in consequence. When Sarnagarh was under the direct control of the Goalundo Local Board several grants were made for the construction of a public road which was partially effected, but when it was brought under the jurisdiction of the District Board in 1902, the work was discontinued, to the great detriment and loss of the inhabitants. In conclusion, the writer suggests that the road from Pangsa to Paturia be connected with Sarnagarh and the adjoining villages.

775. The *Telegraph* writes that water-scarcity has reached a very acute

Water-scarcity in Bengal.

stage in Bengal. Most of the tanks and ponds in

the *mufassal* have deteriorated into mere reservoirs

of mud and the breeding ground of cholera and malaria. The only sources of drinking water available to the millions in the interior are the tanks of the village zamindars, but these are used for such a variety of purposes that the public health cannot fail to suffer if the water from these tanks is utilised for drinking purposes. The only way to remedy this deplorable state of affairs is to re-excavate and to stop all insanitary practices in future. It is true that District Boards have sunk wells in certain areas where scarcity is prevalent, but they do not meet the immense demand of the people. The journal urges the Government to look into the matter and to come to the assistance of the affected millions in the interior of the province.

776. The *Indian Mirror* regrets Mr. Greer's departure at a time when

The Calcutta Municipality.

important questions relating to the municipal

administration of the city are under consideration.

The journal is disappointed in Mr. Greer's valedictory address. It was thought that he would have taken the opportunity of giving the public some definite idea of the new Borough Scheme, but he merely asked them "to keep an open mind, free from suspicion and distrust of the motives of Government and those interested in the Borough Scheme." The Chairman also incidentally referred to the projects of continuous water-supply and improved drainage and conservancy, but what has actually been done towards this end? The former has been heard of ever since the new Corporation came into existence and has so far not advanced beyond the stage of a paper project. Even if the rate-payers got a sufficient supply of water both in the morning and evening they would be content, but this is a luxury they have never been allowed. How much the present Corporation have done towards improving the drainage of the town is apparent from the condition of the streets after a moderate shower of rain. The prevalence of typhoid is due mainly to the insanitary condition of the town, but for all that the rate-payers are told that the sanitation of Calcutta is improving. There is no doubt that the Corporation have made remarkable progress so far as outward show in the shape of new offices and legal Council Chambers is concerned, but they have done comparatively nothing for the good of the people.

AMRITA BAZAR
Patrika,
9th June 1905.

INDIAN MIRROR,
9th June 1905.

TELEGRAPH,
10th June 1905.

INDIAN MIRROR,
10th June 1905.

TRUTH,
12th June 1905.

777. As the want of a reliable market is greatly felt in the southern division of Howrah, where the European railway and mill employés are steadily increasing, *Truth* suggests that the Municipality should acquire 4 bighas of land in the vicinity of the burning ghat, where land is cheap, and erect a market on that site. The journal considers that the whole project will not cost more than Rs. 25,000. It is true that the interest on this amount at 4 per cent. will be Rs. 1,000 a year, but *Truth* assures the Chairman that the income derived from the market will not only meet the interest, but will leave a considerable surplus to make further improvements.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
13th June 1905.

778. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that a notice dated the 28th October last directing the removal of two service privies was served on the owner of No. 79, Sham-bazar Street, and on his agreeing to make the necessary improvements as far as practicable, he was informed that a prosecution had already been started against him. The case came on for hearing on the 28th April last, with the result that the owner of the house was granted one month's time to get permission from the Corporation to make the necessary changes. The next day the defendant submitted a plan to the District Engineer, but it was returned on account of some technical flaw. The plan was resubmitted on the 1st May and a reminder was issued by the defendant on the 10th idem drawing his attention to the urgency of the case. A second reminder was issued on the 23rd idem, but this too failed to secure the necessary sanction before the date fixed by the Courts. The one month allowed had thus elapsed and the case again came on for hearing on the 1st June, when the defendant was fined Rs. 20 for his so-called offence.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
18th June 1905.

779. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*'s Chapra correspondent writes that the Municipal Commissioners have a grievance which they find it difficult to remedy. Mr. Bonham-Carter, the Chairman, puts the motions in such an inaudible voice that the majority of the Commissioners are often quite ignorant as to what is being proposed. As they have not the courage to bring this deficiency to his notice they preserve a judicious silence which is construed into approval of the resolution which is accordingly recorded as passed. This state of things is likely to cause some discontent among the Commissioners, and matters should be remedied speedily.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
11th June 1905.

780. The *Hindoo Patriot* writes that the Dalhousie Square Improvement Scheme has given rise to a spirited agitation among the members of the Anglo-Indian community for two reasons. In the first place, the appearance of this historic square has been thoroughly destroyed by the removal of the trees, and secondly, it is in contemplation to demolish the Dalhousie Institute. While the journal agrees that without trees the picturesqueness of the square is spoilt it is strongly of opinion that the Institute detracts much from the beauty of the square, and its demolition cannot seriously or reasonably be objected to.

(h)—General.

WEEKLY CHRONICLE,
6th June 1905.

781. The *Weekly Chronicle* (Assam) writes that Mr. Ommaney, Subdivisional Officer, has inaugurated a reign of terror in the South Sylhet subdivision. His high-handed procedure and various magisterial vagaries have completely staggered the public. Mr. Ommaney usually comes to office at 12 and leaves at 2 P. M. After recreating himself for about two or three hours he again attends office and disposes of his work in a most perfunctory manner. His method of recording evidence is quite illegal and his judgments are almost invariably reversed by the appellate Court. It is this probably, says the journal, that makes him resort to the irrevocable punishment of whipping, which he sees administered himself. The Subdivisional Officer is riding rough-shod over law and procedure and causing grave public alarm.

782. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that if the Anglo-Indian Press wish to be successful in effecting the separation of the judicial and executive functions they should only notice such cases in which there is absolutely no doubt of executive influence on the judiciary.

The separation of the judicial and executive functions. The Rolt case does not fall under this heading, and hence it is not expedient to give such undue prominence to some petty judicial errors into which the trying Magistrate fell. To issue a warrant instead of a summons or to put an accused into a particular dock are matters of very small consequence when compared to the scandalous treatment that Indians daily receive at the hands of Magistrates. If Anglo-Indian contemporaries were acquainted with the heinous methods which are employed in "breaking" an Indian subject in the *mufassil*, they would not have criticised the doings of Mr. Lea so vehemently thus making a mountain out of a mole hill.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
7th June 1905.

783. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* considers that in the Rolt case judicial authority was in no way diminished by executive influence. It is quite true that some of the

Ibid.

executive methods in the conduct of the case cannot be justified, but this has little or no bearing on the general question of the separation of the two functions. As for these objectionable methods, it is more the system than the officers who are to blame, and this is clearly exemplified by the Khulna forest cases recently disposed of by Mr. Ahmad, the Magistrate. This officer had to try the case summarily and practically under the guidance of the Forest officers themselves, who had received Government orders not to compound cases even when they could be easily compromised, but to resort to Court and insist on heavy sentences being inflicted. The Magistrate was obviously quite helpless when Government wanted offenders to be severely dealt with. It should therefore be clear to Indian publicists that it is not the officers who are to be attacked, but the pernicious policy of Government.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
8th June 1905.

784. Speaking of the reorganisation of the Registration Department, East writes that whatever may be said against the Government of Lord Curzon, one thing must be frankly admitted even by its worst enemies, and that is that during the present régime numerous openings have been made for the middle classes by the reorganisation of the various departments under Government.

EAST,
11th June 1905.

The reorganisation of the Registration Department. 785. Referring to the handsome compensation paid to Mr. Rolt by the Government of Bengal of its own motion, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* asks for information on the following points:—

- (1) Is the Government of Bengal justified in granting compensation to Mr. Rolt when it was refused to Mr. Bain by the Government of India, thereby creating a dangerous precedent?
- (2) Is it intended to limit the payment of compensation to Europeans only?
- (3) As the Government of Bengal is incapable of making any such racial distinction, is it prepared to similarly compensate the victim of the latest executive oppression, namely, Babu Tara Nath Chowdry, whose case discloses a much greater perversion of judicial proceedings and the processes of the law than perhaps any other recent case? This man was without tangible proof charged with the gravest possible crime, handcuffed at a railway station, marched through the public streets in police custody, thrown into *hajat*, committed to the Court of Sessions, although, with this difference from the Rolt case, the District Magistrate was of opinion that there was no case against him, and eventually, after a most painful and prolonged trial, found by the Judge and jury to be innocent!

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
13th June 1905.

786. The *Indian Empire* criticises the Government of India on account of the severity of the punishment they have inflicted on Karadibari V. Lakshmana Rao, late a Deputy Collector in the Madras Presidency. After completing 30 years

INDIAN EMPIRE,
13th June 1905.

of meritorious and approved service this officer put in his papers for pension, but was informed in reply that he was entitled to none, as he had violated the standing orders of Government by acquiring landed property when he was tahsildar many years ago. He was also deprived of his title of Dewan Bahadur. Here is an old officer who had devoted the best portion of his life to the service of Government told when the time comes for his retirement that he has not only forfeited his title but also his pension. The punishment is crushingly severe, and the *Empire* is confident that Lord Ampthill will restore to him his well-earned pension.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
13th June 1905.

Want of an experienced medical
officer at Tamluk.

787. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika's* Tamluk correspondent writes that this important subdivision is very much in need of a good medical officer. What the people want is an experienced Assistant Surgeon instead of new-fledged L.M.S. men in whom they have no confidence whatever. Tamluk is a thickly-peopled subdivision, and it is earnestly hoped that the Civil Surgeon will see his way to posting an experienced and able medical officer there.

INDIAN MIRROR,
7th June 1905.

Mr. Brodrick and the resolu-
tions of the protest meeting.

788. The *Indian Mirror* writes that the attitude of Mr. Brodrick towards the resolutions of the protest meeting held in Calcutta in connection with His Excellency the Viceroy's Convocation address, was a foregone conclusion. The Indians, however, have gained their object, for the attention of the British public has been drawn to their grievances and to the marked unpopularity of Lord Curzon.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
21st May 1905.

789. The *Indian Mirror* writes that it is a hopeful sign of the times that the Indian *raiyat*, who has hitherto been too ignorant and apathetic regarding public questions, is getting into the way of taking an active part in them. It was seen how the cultivating classes mustered strong at the last Bengal Provincial Conference held in Mymensingh, and how some of them intelligently recorded their grievances. Soon after, the agreeable spectacle is seen of 500 *raiyats* at the Chingleput District Conference, Trevellore.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
21st May 1905.

790. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* attributes Mr. Carey's severe punishment to the unfavourable light in which his conduct has been shown up in Parliament, and thinks that Sir Andrew Fraser has acted wisely in

inflicting such deterrent punishment on his subordinate, as His Honour would have been placed in an extremely unenviable position had further disclosures been made before the House of Commons. Turning to the Rolt case, the journal finds that there are three points which are of public interest, viz., the undeserved censure passed on Mr. Lea for taking action against a European under circumstances in which it was his duty to do so; the condemnation of the Subdivisional Officer of Kissengunge for treating Mr. Rolt as he would have treated an Indian accused, and the unjust arrangement by which the minors of the Khagra Estate are to pay compensation to their ex-Manager. These, in the opinion of the *Patrika*, are the principal points which should form the subject of interpellation.

BENGALEE,
29th May 1905.

The Carey and Rolt cases in
Parliament.

791. It is remarkable, writes the *Bengalee*, that neither Mr. Balfour nor the Leader of the Opposition noticed a most important consideration relating to the defence of India, namely, the necessity of conciliating the people and securing their loyalty and gratitude. With the people aiding the Government on every side, a Russian invasion of India would end in gigantic failure, but apparently this is not the view taken by these two prominent statesmen. This omission to endeavour to secure the support of the millions of India is significant and is undoubtedly a part of that hateful policy which treats them with absolute indifference, if not with undisguised contempt. The military problem of India is part and parcel of the main problem of civil administration, and the sooner the authorities learn to popularise the latter the easier of solution will the former prove.

792. The *Bengalee* writes that the remarkable public meetings held in this country to protest against Lord Curzon's administration and the aspersions deliberately cast upon Indian ideals and Indian character, have culminated in a meeting held in London by the Indians residents in England. The gathering was a representative one, and the proceedings bore a greater degree of importance by the presence of a number of Englishmen who, while they took no active part in them, evinced their entire sympathy with the object of the meeting. These circumstances make it quite clear that Lord Curzon's second term of Viceroyalty has not been an improvement on his first, but on the contrary has done a distinct disservice to British rule in India.

793. Referring to a letter in the *Pioneer* in which the sensational statement is made that "the Japanese Intelligence Department has been pursuing secret inquiries as to the feelings of natives towards the British in

Japan's success and England's policy in India.
India," the *Bengalee* writes that there can be no doubt that Japan's wonderful successes must compel the rulers of India to revise their policy. Now, more than ever, is it necessary for them to popularise British rule, to remove all causes of disaffection and discontent wherever they may be found to exist, and to evoke the gratitude of the people by giving them an adequate voice in controlling the affairs of their own country. Japan's easy and brilliant ascendancy in the East has for ever exploded the fiction regarding the inherent superiority of the Western races, and this cannot fail to have a direct bearing on the British policy in India. Indians regarded the "Russian Bogey" as the only stimulus to the good government of India, but although Russia no longer counts, there is a stronger than Russia to be reckoned with, and this altered situation demands a speedy reversal of the Curzonian policy which has plunged the entire country into seething discontent.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENL.
OF POLICE, L. P.
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,
The 17th June 1905.

F. C. DALY,
Asst. to the Inspr.-Genl. of Police, L. P.

BENGALEE,
9th June 1905.

BENGALEE,
10th June 1905.

